

Gunmen kill soldier in Maiduguri

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

TRAGEDY struck on Wednesday as a soldier was killed by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect at the Maiduguri Monday market.

The victim was said to have gone to a drinking spot near the market when the assailants pulled out a Kalashnikov rifle and fired him several times on the head and chest.

Meanwhile, a Maiduguri High

Court adjourns trial of *Boko Haram* suspects

Court yesterday adjourned the trial of 65 Boko Haram suspects to December 13th, 2011 as four of them could not be presented before the court.

Justice Wakil Gana Gana who adjourned the suit, said the action was to enable the absentee suspects appear before the court.

Confirming the incident, the

Joint Task Force (JTF) spokesman, Lt. Col Hasssan Mohammed said: "it was very unfortunate for the slain soldier as he absconded from his duty post and went to the market. The act (absconding) has however violated the ethics of his profession and the result is his death in the hands of suspected Boko Haram sect."

Also, the Borno State Police Com-

missioner, Simeon Midenda confirmed the killing, adding, however, that no arrests had been made.

Justice Gana said: "This court cannot continue the hearing of the suit, as only 61 out of the 65 are before us. Their absence before the court may not give room for fair hearing on the alleged criminal cases against the suspects."

The prosecuting counsel,

Haruna Izge also prayed the court to adjourn the case, stating that, "it will be improper for the hearing to continue in the absence of other suspects as they are all facing similar charges."

However, the defence counsel, Tahir Gundar did not object to the prayer, as according to him, "the case can have accelerated hearing when all suspects are present."